



Spring 2021

# Fo'c'sle News

Newsletter of the Hudson River Maritime Museum  
50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401 | [www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org) | 845-338-0071



Students create their own live edge tables during a class at the Wooden Boat School



Board trustee Russ Lange puts finishing touches on the new climate change exhibit in the East Gallery

## Planning a Season for the Books

Our 2021 season is here! Last year we weathered a four month closure and reduced attendance, but persevered with the RiverWise trips, woodworking classes, and limited museum admission. Now, we are excited to get back into the swing of things. The past few months have given us time to put together some exciting and safe events and opportunities for just about everyone who has an interest in maritime and Hudson Valley history. New and updated exhibits, new classes and programs, and new virtual events are coming your way. Fascinated by shipwrecks? Tune in for "Ghost Fleet Awakened—Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758," part of our *Follow the River Lecture Series*. Want to learn more about the history and culture of indigenous people who inhabited our area before the industrial boom? We're putting together indigenous history tours that will take place aboard our floating classroom *Solaris*. Know a beginner sailor? Share with them the opportunity to register for First Sail, an introductory sailing class happening in June. Participants will spend two hours on the beautiful Rondout Creek and Hudson River aboard our classic catboat *Tidbit*.

During the winter months we opened the museum to visitors on Fridays and Saturdays, offering timed admission to limit crowds. We plan to reopen for regular admission on Saturday, May 1, 2021 with new and refreshed exhibits, including the must-see "Mary Powell: Queen of the Hudson" and "Warning Signs: Climate Change in the Hudson Valley." *Solaris* private charters will be available beginning Memorial Day weekend and can safely accommodate a group of up to 14 people who want to spend a few hours on the water. Woodworking classes are scheduled through the rest of the year, with more to be added, offering DIY projects such as an Adirondack chair or wooden tool box.

Other projects include the Riverport grant, fresh signage throughout campus, a new roof and solar panels for the Wooden Boat School, and a plan to reinvent the biggest artifact in our collection, the 1898 steam tugboat *Mathilda*. We look forward to seeing you at the museum!

**Visit the Museum**  
Open Thursday through Sunday  
11am to 5pm

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## 2021: Adapting & Innovating

Hello Friends,

As I write this, it is close to 50 degrees outside and I can see from my office the ice is coming down the Rondout creek in sheets almost as wide as the creek itself. Pretty soon, plastic wraps will be coming off boats up and down the Hudson River. It's spring in the Hudson Valley! And after the strangest year many of have ever seen, this season of renewal seems even more amazing than usual.

It is easy to dwell on what we lost over the last months, but I am trying my best to also see what we have gained. One thing that I have noticed here at the museum is that we are far more confident about trying new things, about innovating, and about CHANGE in general. It seems that we have emerged from this pandemic a little bit tougher, and when we are knocked off balance I see us finding our footing much quicker than ever before. Adaptability! That is the upside of confronting loss and hardship.

In addition to longer days and vaccines, the simple act of preparing our educational programming this year is cheering us all up, too. We were lucky to have outdoor venues and on-water programs because they bailed us out last season - and they will shine again this year with increased opportunities for Sailing, Rowing, Woodworking and Solaris education. Our exhibits are open to visitors and we are finding our way in the world of virtual education. You will continue to be able to learn remotely about maritime history with documentaries and lectures.

And of course, we are hoping that we can all see each other in person this season. Won't that be a great day!

- Lisa Cline, Executive Director



### STAFF

Lisa Cline  
*Executive Director*

Lauren Berg  
*PR/Marketing &  
Membership Manager*

Liz Feser  
*Finance & Operations  
Manager*

Wayne Ford  
*Boat School Restorations &  
Youth Instructor*

Allynn Lange  
*Curator Emerita*

Carla Lesh  
*Collections Manager &  
Digital Archivist*

Sam Merrett  
*Programming Captain,  
Solaris*

John Phelan  
*Waterfront/Boat School  
Manager*

Jody Sterling  
*Sailing School Manager*

Gregg Swanzey  
*Grants Manager*

Sarah Wassberg Johnson  
*Director of Exhibits &  
Outreach*

Tanya Van Renesse  
*Sailing Instructor*

### Senior Boat School Instructors

Michael Puryear

Bill Sterling

John Van Buren

Andrew Willner

## Strategic Plan



One more thing....a realization that has become very clear to us in this past year of introspection is that we need to update our strategic plan as well as our mission, vision and values statements. And because you are the heart and soul of HRMM, we will be asking for your help!

So please stay tuned for an email survey that targets our different stakeholder groups such as members, board and staff. We'll post more information on the HRMM website. Not subscribed to our emails? Get on the list at [www.hrmm.org](http://www.hrmm.org) or call us and we'll sign you up.

Thank you, Lisa

# OUR TEAM

## New at HRMM

We're excited to welcome new faces to the museum.

**Shelby LaLonde, Shop Clerk** – Shelby is a senior at Kingston High School and began working at the museum in August. She greets visitors before they enter the exhibits, sells items such as gifts and books, keeps up inventory, and helps people find their way around campus.

**Jeff Mertz, Film Editor** – Jeff will be piecing together material that was collected last summer as part of the museum's RiverWise film project. Plans are in the works for short documentary films on a number of topics including lighthouses, tugboats, ship building and sail freight.

**Cal Truman, DEC Climate Change Exhibit Facilitator** – Since January Cal has been leading volunteers to launch the museum's climate change exhibit, telling the story of how the Hudson River is affected by climate change and what communities are doing in response.

**Lauren Berg, PR/Marketing & Membership Manager** – Lauren joined the museum in January and is marketing the museum's lectures, tours and other events. She'll also be streamlining the membership experience for individuals and families, businesses and libraries.

We have a number of open positions at the museum, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities. Learn more at [www.hrmm.org/work-with-us](http://www.hrmm.org/work-with-us).

## Board Leadership Opportunities



Do you think you can help HRMM continue to grow and strengthen? We are seeking applications for new members of the Board of Trustees. Applicants should be able to commit to 5-10 hours per month spent in meetings and board projects. Members serve a term of 3 years.

If you would like to nominate someone you know (with their permission), please let us know and we can reach out to them. Our recruitment process is always active, so feel free to submit an application at any time. You can apply, nominate, and learn more at [www.hrmm.org/board](http://www.hrmm.org/board).

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Weeks  
*President*

Dale Wolfield  
*1st Vice President*

Allan Bowdery  
*2nd Vice President*

Brian L. Johnson  
*Treasurer*

Shelley Wright  
*Secretary*

Robert Burhans  
*Executive Committee*

*Members*

Stephen Digilio

L. David Eaton

Huntley Gill

Russell Lange

Ann Loeding

Frank Marcigliano

Kelly O'Connor

Mark Peckham

David Price

William Ryan

Suzanne Walton

Ian Westergren

# WAYS TO SUPPORT

## Boat Donations

Looking for a hassle-free way to get rid of your boat? Consider donating it to the museum! HRMM accepts boat donations for museum programs or for sale to benefit the museum.

HRMM's boat donation program provides an opportunity for boat owners who want assurance of a meaningful future for their vessel. In most cases, the benefits of donating highly outweigh the stressful and time-consuming process of selling a boat on their own. Boat donations are hassle-free, provide new and continued life to beloved vessels, and are tax deductible!

The donation process is very simple. It requires a brief inspection visit by a friendly and knowledgeable staff person, a few signatures, and then the museum will arrange for pick up! Learn more at [www.hrmm.org/boat-donations](http://www.hrmm.org/boat-donations).



*Some of our donated boats make it into the Sailing School fleet.*

## RiverWise Films Update



*Welcome our new intern and recent Bard graduate, Adrianna Candor!*

Many of you may have seen the December documentary film created by filmmaker Jeff Mertz, who is working with the museum on creating these films going forward. If you haven't, check it out at [www.hudsonriverwise.org](http://www.hudsonriverwise.org)!

Jeff is a documentary filmmaker whose 2019 short documentary film "Across the Hummingbird Bridge" won awards in Edinburgh, San Francisco, and New Hampshire. He joined the RiverWise project on the second trip, and we are very happy to work with him to create stunning and historically accurate documentary films.

New intern Adrianna Candor, who graduated from Bard College in December 2020 with a degree in Sociology, is assisting in the cataloging of all of the film footage we took on the RiverWise trips! She will also be assisting Jeff on

future film shoots and interviews. Adrianna is pursuing a career in documentary filmmaking and has experience in ethnographic film projects. Welcome aboard, Adrianna!

We are currently working on some short films based on interviews taken during RiverWise, but the big project is the Hudson River Lighthouses film series. We'll be making ten "episodes" for the film, featuring the seven remaining Hudson River Lighthouses, Robbin's Reef lighthouse, and introduction and conclusion episodes putting Hudson River lighthouses in national context. If you would like to donate to support these films, or if you or a business you know would like to sponsor the lighthouse films, you can learn more at [www.hudsonriverwise.org/support](http://www.hudsonriverwise.org/support).

# WAYS TO SUPPORT

## Business Supporter Opportunities

We rely on sponsorship from local businesses to help bring to life programs and exhibits that inspire continued interest in the history of the Hudson River. Perks of becoming a business supporter include name and logo placement, passes and tours, and free or reduced access to the museum, Solaris charters, and facility rentals. A variety of support levels help businesses decide which benefits will be best for their goals. Benefits can begin at the start of any month and are valid for one year. Our levels of support range from \$100 to \$10,000.

To learn more about the perks of becoming a business supporter and to register online, visit [www.hrmm.org/business-supporters](http://www.hrmm.org/business-supporters) or call 845-338-0071.



## Our Business Supporters & Sponsors

- Adams Fairacre Farms
- Antique & Classic Boat Society
- Arold Construction
- Ashokan Center
- Basch & Keegan, LLP
- Berardi, Gottstine & Miller, CPA's, PC
- Betty & the Baby Boomers
- BHHS Nutshell Realty
- Bottini Fuel Co.
- Catskill Woodworking
- ML Condon
- Central Hudson
- Clove & Creek
- CPS Excavating
- Steve Cross Mechanical
- D&D Mailing Services
- D&H Canal Museum
- Edward Jones, Eric Clancy
- Ellenville Public Library
- Emerson Resort & Spa
- Drs. Engel & Lindgren Family Medicine
- Friends of Historic Kingston
- Friends of Saugerties
- Public Library
- Forsyth Nature Center
- Hannaford
- Herzog's Home Center
- Higbee, Meier & Digilio Group
- Historic Kingston Waterfront Revival
- Hops Petunia
- Hudson River Bindery
- Hudson River Cruises
- Hudson River Ice Yacht Club
- Hudson River Pilots Association
- Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
- Hudson Valley Parent Society
- G. Steve Jordan Films
- Keegan Ales
- Kingston Sailing Club
- Kingston Wine Company
- Kingston Times
- Kingston Waterfront Business Association
- Leifsigns, LLC
- Lou's Boat Basin
- Louise Marcigliano, LCSW
- Mariner's Harbor
- Marshall & Sterling
- McAllister Towing
- Medenbach & Eggers
- Medical Associates of the Hudson Valley
- Meltzer & Hill Wealth Advisory
- Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Mohonk Mountain House
- N&S Supply
- Nick Roberti's Marine
- Newburgh Free Library
- NYS DEC
- O'Connor & Partners PLLC
- Ole Savannah
- P&T Surplus
- The Print Shop
- Riverkeeper
- Reher Center
- Rondout Savings Bank
- Nick Roberti Marine
- Rowan Woodworking
- Safeco Alarm Systems, Inc.
- Saugerties Lighthouse
- SeaBags
- Shuster Associates
- Shawangunk Valley Conservancy
- Snake Hill Farm, LLC
- Stone Soup
- SUNY New Paltz
- Tomelia Sail & Canvas
- Town of Esopus Library
- Trolley Museum of New York
- Ulster County Chamber of Commerce
- Ulster County Clerk
- Ulster County Department of Tourism
- Van Kleeck's Tire
- Williams Lumber & Home Center
- White's Hudson River Marina
- Woodstock Library

# GRANTS & AWARDS

## Riverport Project

Our contract is fully in place with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for the Riverport Project, and we are ramping up our conversations to replace the roof on the Wooden Boat School and install new solar panels and HVAC systems.

We also are working with Scott Dutton of Dutton Architecture to create a new vision for the HRMM grounds that will better serve our community and provide access and support for waterfront programs including a design for the streetscape in front of the buildings along the Strand where the trolley tracks run, interpretive displays for the Heritage Area and wifi for the general public.

## New Grant Opportunities

As we look to the future and the new opportunities for grants coming up in 2021, we are currently considering ways to provide better Hudson River access via *Solaris* to the Rondout Lighthouse, Rhinecliff, Hutton Brickyards and the new Hudson Cliffs State Park, as well as support effective and powerful river education and promote Hudson River stewardship into the future.

We are sure that 2021 will be a year of exciting new opportunities, developments and growth for the HRMM after a challenging 2020!

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



HRMM Wooden Boat School volunteer Ron Palicia built this bookcase and computer workstation that sits in the boat school's classroom. The wood used was ash, milled and donated by board president Jack Weeks. Ron is a longtime volunteer and has created many fine pieces of furniture for the boat school and built several interactive exhibit pieces for the museum's new exhibit on climate change. Thank you, Ron!

# SOLARIS

## New Solaris Programs



*Solaris* is currently hauled out on dry land, hibernating, sitting dormant under a tarp that by design, doesn't quite block all the sunlight, letting just enough through to trickle charge our batteries throughout the winter. Voltage is high, the vessel is fully charged and ready for our 3rd season.

Our current work is focused primarily on developing new programs in response to passenger feedback. We are keeping our backbone of regular programming, including the Lighthouse trips—yes, you will get to go inside this year!—the Industrial Waterfront tours which are a staff favorite, as well as the sunset cruises and other trips. In 2021 we are adding a regular Shipwrecks trip and also inviting special guests with new themes. These will include Indigenous Heritage topics covering tribal histories, native bird folklore, and plant names in the local Munsee language. Also coming up are tours on our changing climate hosting intimate explorations of what sea level rise will look like on the Rondout. Stay tuned for ecological experts with a focus on Sunday Morning Bird Watching Trips and of course many special historians.

Our week is getting longer with regular Thursday programming joining our Friday through Sunday trips. This will include two trips to the Rondout Lighthouse, a live music cruise and a special twilight trip focused on evening sky. For live music we already have some very exciting collaborations planned with Mike and Ruthy who make up The Mammals, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason and others. We will start these trips as soon as we are sure it is safe to do so.

If you have ideas for musicians who might want to perform out on the water or guest lectures we should collaborate with—please reach out! By the time you are reading this, the schedule will be live on the website. Please join us on the river this year! Tickets and more information available at [www.hrmm.org/all-boat-tours](http://www.hrmm.org/all-boat-tours).

---

## Solaris Private Charters

Our solar-powered tour boat *Solaris* serves as a floating classroom giving a variety of educational and sightseeing tours throughout the season. Did you know she is also available for private charter?

*Solaris* is a perfect vessel for a birthday party, family excursion, or even an exciting and fun meeting. At the moment, we're accommodating groups of up to 14 people as part of our Covid-safer procedures. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and beverages. Pricing for private charters is \$300 for the first hour and \$250 for subsequent hours.

We're happy to have a conversation about options to help get your party out onto the water. A form is available online at [www.hrmm.org/book-a-charter](http://www.hrmm.org/book-a-charter) or feel free to give us a call at 845-338-0071.



# WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL

## Boat School Reopening



*Students learn to build their own Adirondack chairs during a class at the Wooden Boat School*

The Wooden Boat School is ready to bounce back after a slow 2020. Last fall we implemented a set of guidelines to keep our students and staff safe. We then contacted students who had started classes last winter that were cancelled half way through and asked how they felt about returning. While there were a few who were understandably apprehensive we were pleasantly surprised by the number that wanted to return, following our new guidelines. These few classes were a success and the staff and students all felt safe so we thought we would dip our toes in a little deeper.

We came up with a few classes that we thought we could run safely and put them out for registration to see what would happen. Again we were happily surprised with the response and a few even sold out. So little by little we continued to gauge

the comfort level of students, kept an eye on state guidelines and continued to offer more programming.

We are happy to say that things have continued to progress nicely and we now have a robust schedule of classes posted for the remainder of this year. There appears to be some pent up demand for people to get out of the house as well as an increase in their desire to do and build things for themselves. We are nicely located in the niche of offering an opportunity to learn, build and improve skills while keeping a safe environment with small class sizes. Hopefully the momentum that is building around the Wooden Boat School will continue and we can come out of the pandemic stronger than we went in.

To see more about what is happening at the Wooden Boat School follow us on Instagram @hrmmwoodenboatschool and to find what classes are scheduled and to read our Covid-19 guidelines, visit [www.hrmm.org/boat-school](http://www.hrmm.org/boat-school).

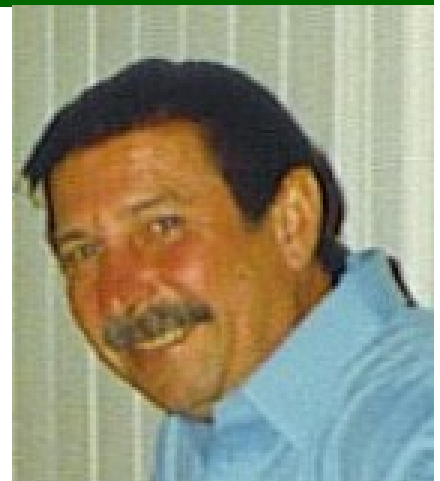
## IN MEMORIAM

**George William Peterson**

**Jan 22, 1941 - November 21, 2020**

HRMM acknowledges the recent passing of George William Peterson of Esopus. George had decades of experience on the Hudson River and extensive knowledge of the area's natural wealth and recreational opportunities. George's family said he was an avid ice boater and the sport allowed him to express his daredevil love of speed. He enjoyed a career in the maritime industry and owned his own business for over 30 years. George died peacefully at home at the age of 79.

The museum thanks George's family for not only a fundraiser organized in his honor, but for numerous contributions to the HRMM collections over the years.





# SAILING SCHOOL

## Adult & Youth Programming

What a year this has been. Many in our community have been hard hit by Covid, some with illness and death, others with loss of income. Like all organizations, our sailing school has had to pivot and respond to new challenges. The good news is that with those challenges has come growth and opportunities such as online sailing classes and new on-the-water classes.

On a more global scale, 2020 was a year that revealed fractures and schisms in our society. HRMM folks have been talking about ways to bring people together through the maritime world which we love. We want to welcome everyone from all communities, especially those who have rarely been afforded the opportunity to get on the water to experience the joys of sailing and connecting with the River. Our sport allows people to connect with nature, experience relief from the demands of the 24/7 digital world, grow as individuals, build skills, experience mastery, create self-confidence, learn to work with others as part of a team and connect with a community of diverse people brought together by their love of sailing.

New initiatives include creating a Community Advisory Board to help us bring people from more diverse communities into the maritime world, fundraising for scholarships for Youth Sailing Programs and First Sails for people from underrepresented communities. We'll be partnering with Kingston Sailing Club to do the national AdventureSail day on August 14, 2021 ([www.womensailing.org/events-education/adventuresail](http://www.womensailing.org/events-education/adventuresail)) and we continue to welcome and strengthen female sailors through the Women on the Water program in July and August 2021. Find a full list of classes at [www.hrmm.org/sailing-school](http://www.hrmm.org/sailing-school).

**Youth Intermediate Class** - A series of six classes which will meet once a week on Thursdays, from 4-7pm. US Sailing certified instructors will introduce students to new sailing skills which they'll practice aboard various centerboard boats. They'll also get an intro to the basics of sailboat racing.



**First Sail** - An introduction to sailing aboard our classic catboat *Tidbit* with a US Sailing certified instructor. Learn the basics of sailing and enjoy two hours on the beautiful Rondout Creek and Hudson River. Beginners are welcome, as are experienced sailors.

**Adult Basic Centerboard Sailing** - A 3-hour class for adults with no prior experience. Participants will sail on smaller centerboard boats with a US Sailing Certified instructor. The course includes capsizing practice. Also available is a 3-hour clinic for adults who have basic sailing skills and wish to learn more.



# CURATORIAL CORNER

## Recent Donations to the Museum Collection



Builder's name plate "Washington Irving New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N.J. The "Hyde" Patented Aug. 10, 1880 – June 3, 1890 Hyde Windlass Co., Makers, Bath, Maine" on display in the Hudson River Day Line exhibit.



Hudson River Day Line steamboat Washington Irving at Kingston Point Park, between 1913 and 1926. Hudson River Maritime Museum Collection.

This 35-pound brass builder's name plate from the Hudson River Day Line steamboat *Washington Irving* came home to the Hudson River recently, generously donated by John Cummerford. The Cummerfords were a maritime family, Edward B. Cummerford a maritime surveyor, his son Edward F. Cummerford a maritime attorney. The builder's name plate has been in the care of the family, most recently in Phoenix, Arizona. The *Washington Irving* was built to carry 6,000 passengers. For 13 years she ran between New York City and Albany from 1913 until she was rammed by a barge in 1926 at the Desbrosses Street pier in New York City and sank. The *Washington Irving* made multiple stops along the Hudson River, including the landing at Kingston Point Park (renamed Rotary Park).

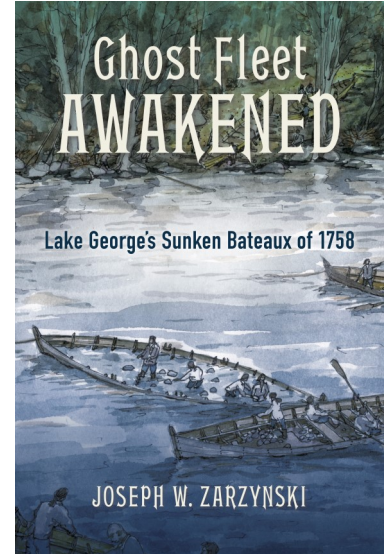
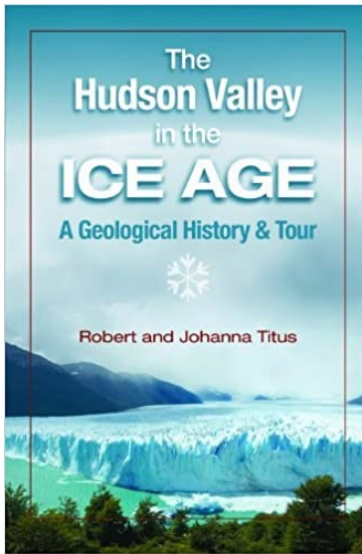
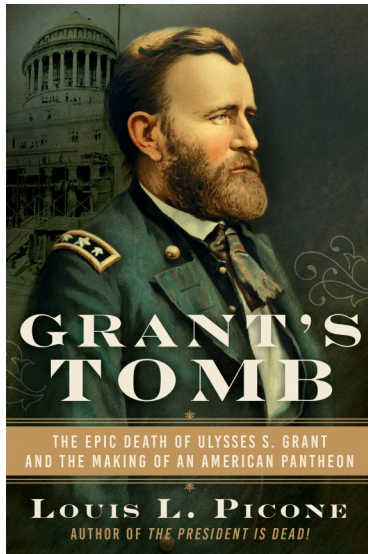
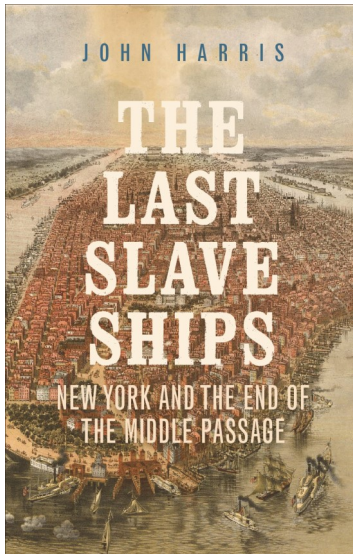
## New Miniature Model Boats Display



Thanks to a grant from the Documentary Heritage Project, which the Hudson River Maritime Museum received in 2019, updates have been made to the Charles Niles Model Boat Shop exhibit. Right: Volunteers Jerry Mastropaolo (left) and Mark Peckham (right) installing model boats from the Franklin B. Roberts Jr. Collection, which brought hundreds of miniature models into the museum's collection. Left: The grant-funded display cases fully installed.

# LOCAL HISTORY

## Lecture Series Goes Virtual



One silver lining of the pandemic has been the realization that virtual programs can reach a wider and more far-flung audience than in-person programs. Which is why the museum is launching its spring lecture series virtually! Virtual lectures have also allowed us to host authors, historians, and professional speakers from locations as far away as Michigan, South Carolina, and Cape Cod. The spring lectures are now live on the website and HRMM members of all levels can attend for free! Topics this spring include slavery in New York City, Grant's tomb, lighthouses, shipwrecks, geology, and more. Did you miss a lecture that already happened? Most of our speakers are allowing us to record the talks! Recorded talks will be posted on our YouTube channel. You can learn more about upcoming lectures and register at [www.hrmm.org/lecture-series](http://www.hrmm.org/lecture-series).



## New Exhibit Sneak Peaks

Two new updates to exhibits in the East Gallery are underway, led by Ron Searl, Exhibits Fabricator. One commemorates the 50th anniversary of the last season of the *Alexander Hamilton* (left) and is being completed with assistance from Jerry Mastropaolo. The other, about the importance of sturgeon fishing throughout Hudson River history (right), features a sturgeon skin from the museum's collection and an image from a WPA mural in the Hyde Park Post Office.

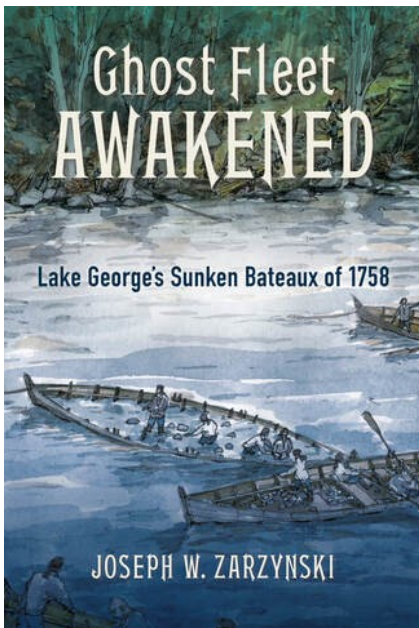




Hudson River Maritime Museum  
50 Rondout Landing  
Kingston, NY 12401

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
PERMIT NO. 8604

## Save the date!



### “Ghost Fleet Awakened – Lake George’s Sunken Bateaux of 1758”

Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
7:00 PM via Zoom

FREE for HRMM members!

Maritime archaeologist and author Joseph W. Zarzynski will talk about a sunken fleet of historic warships at Lake George that date to the French & Indian

War. This virtual event is part of the *Follow the River Lecture Series*. Tickets and more info at [hrmm.org/lecture-series](http://hrmm.org/lecture-series)

